

Serial No. 10/038,671
Reply to Office Action of November 23, 2004

Docket No. K-0389

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 17 are amended, claims 19-30 are added claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. In addition, Fig. 5 has been amended to correct the element numbers. A replacement sheet that includes corrected Fig. 5 is attached. Reconsideration in view of the amendments and above the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 4-18 are allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,315,378 to Satou et al. (hereinafter "Satou"). Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, and thus their rejection is now moot.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satou in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,231,481 to Eouzan et al. (hereinafter "Eouzan"). Claim 2 has been canceled, and thus this rejection is now moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that added claims 19-30 are allowable over the cited art.

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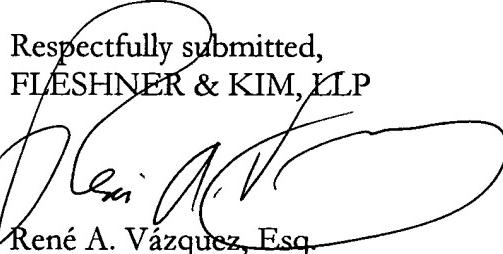
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vázquez, Esq., at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP


René A. Vázquez, Esq.
Registration No. 38,647

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DYK/RAV:knv
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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610